

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01 EB-07 /037 W

----- 002901

O R 071205Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5538

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZORES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0091

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO, CU, US

SUBJ: GOP QUERIED ON CUBAN AIRLIFT THROUGH AZORES

REF: STATE 0065 (DTG 010053Z JAN 76)

1. AZOREAN DEPUTY AND SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER JAIME GAMA, IN JAN 6 SPEECH BEFORE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, FORMALLY REQUESTED THAT PRIME MINISTER CONFIRM OR DENY PRESS REPORTS THAT CUBAN AIRCRAFT CARRYING PERSONNEL AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO MPLA WERE REFUELING IN SANTA MARIA AIRPORT, IN THE AZORES. REFERRING TO "ALARM" REPORTS HAD CAUSED IN AZORES, GAMA ASKED WHETHER, IF THEY WERE TRUE, REFUELING OPERATIONS HAD CONSENT OF PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES AND, IF SO, WHO HAD AUTHORIZED OPERATIONS.

2. IN ITS COVERAGE OF GAMA SPEECH, INDEPENDENT "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" NOTED JAN 7 THAT AZOREAN PRESS HAD REPORTED CUBAN

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AIRCRAFT OF RUSSIAN MAKE HAD BEEN PASSING THROUGH SANTA MARIA

FROM HAVANA BOUND FOR GUINEA-BISSAU "WITH GREAT FREQUENCY."  
ACCORDING TO "DIARIO," AZOREAN PRESS REPORTED FLIGHTS LANDED  
IN EARLY MORNING AND THAT PASSENGER AND CARGO MANIFESTS HAD  
NOT BEEN MADE AVAILABLE.

3. "DIARIO" ALSO NOTED IN PASSING AZOREAN PRESS REPORTS OF  
USG USE OF LAJES FIELD TO REFUEL AIRCRAFT PARTICIPATING IN  
AIRLIFT OF SUPPLIES TO FNLA AND UNITA.

4. DATT HAS OBTAINED COPY OF MEMO FROM OFFICE OF PRESIDENT  
ON SUBJECT OF CUBAN USE OF SANTA MARIA. MEMO STATES THAT FIVE  
CUBAN CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT LANDED AT SANTA MARIA ON DEC 1, 18,  
20, 21, AND 22, BUT THAT FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING STOPS WERE  
LACKING. IT FURTHER REPORTED ADDITIONAL STOP HAD BEEN MADE  
DEC 27 BY CUBAN "BRITANNIA" AIRCRAFT DESTINED FOR BISSAU AND  
CARRYING 56 PASSENGERS AND UNKNOWN CARGO.

5. COMMENT: SHOULD WE BE QUERIED ON EITHER CUBAN OR USG  
FLIGHTS THROUGH AZORES, WE WILL RESPOND IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
PRESS GUIDELINES CONTAINED REFTTEL.  
CARLUCCI

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, AIR TRANSPORTATION, PRESS CONFERENCES, AIRPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 JAN 1976  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976LISBON00091  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760005-0154  
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**To:** STATE  
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